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A protester adjusts an installation depicting Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg surfing on a wave of cash outside UK parliament on Monday | AP

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INTERNAL PAPERS SHOW FACEBOOK TORN BETWEEN PEOPLE & MONEY

Thousands of pages of internal documents provided to Congress by a former employee depict an internally conflicted company

'PROBLEMS WERE FLAGGED BUT IGNORED'

The crisis exposed by the documents shows how Facebook, despite its avowed good intentions, sidelined efforts to address harms such as hate speech, misinformation and calls to violence. The papers reveal numerous instances where researchers and rank-and-file workers uncovered deep-seated problems that the firm then ignored due to commercial concerns

APPLE THREATENED TO BAN FACEBOOK

- Two years ago, Apple threatened to pull Facebook from its app store for allegedly facilitating selling of maids in West Asia
- Apple relented after FB promised to act but the social media giant acknowledged in internal papers it was "under-enforcing on confirmed abusive activity", the Associated Press reported | P11

3.5 billion

FACEBOOK IS SITTING ON PERSONAL DATA OF BILLIONS OF PEOPLE WORLDWIDE

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • WARANGAL • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

Gosavi to give up; vigilance heat on extortion racket

NCB goes into a huddle after pay-off allegations by witness in cruise drug case

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @Mumbai

A day after a witness in the cruise ship drugs case claimed that some NCB officials sought ₹25 crore from actor Shah Rukh Khan to let his son Aryan off the hook, the agency ordered a high-level vigilance probe into it.

Prabhakar Sail, who is witness No 1 in the case, had said in his affidavit that NCB zonal director Sameer Wankhede's middle man Sam D'Souza and absconding witness K P Gosavi had demanded the money from the actor.

Prabhakar, the personal bodyguard of Gosavi, also alleged that Wankhede got him to sign on 10 blank papers.

NCB's vigilance unit head Gyaneshwar Singh will lead the member team that will probe allegations of extortion. The team, also comprising two inspector-level officers, will record the statements of Wankhede and others. It will also analyse the evidence given by Sail and submit its report to the DG of NCB.

"We will check the facts of the case before taking a decision over Sameer Wankhede's suspension," said Gyaneshwar Singh.

According to Sail's affidavit, Gosavi and D'Souza demanded ₹25 crore from SRK at the behest of Wankhede. He said they were ready to settle at ₹18 crore, out of which ₹8 crore was given to Wankhede and the rest would be distributed between them.

Dawood Wankhede?

NCP minister Nawab Malik on Monday alleged that Wankhede is Muslim by birth and that his father is Dawood K Wankhede and mother is Zabida Begum Bano

Following the explosive charges, the Maharashtra government on Monday decided to give security to Sail.

Meanwhile Gosavi, who had gone missing, surfaced on Monday to deny the allegation levelled by Sail. Gosavi said there is a threat to his life in Mumbai but he can't trust the Mumbai police. Therefore, he said he will surrender in Uttar Pradesh.

On his part, Wankhede had approached a sessions court with the plea that no action be taken on Sail's allegations. However, the court rejected it saying the matter is already in the high court.

Meanwhile, Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut said that D'Souza does money laundering for Wankhede. P10

CVC CAPITALS, RPSG SPRING AN IPL SURPRISE

VENKATA KRISHNA B @Chennai

AFTER technical valuations, as the BCCI opened the bids to reveal the owners of the two new IPL teams, they were in for a surprise. According to sources, it got to a point where even BCCI office-bearers' jaws dropped when they opened the sealed envelopes in Dubai on Monday.

Each bid outweighed the other. In a bidding process where Adanis were expected to win comfortably and Glazers (Manchester United owners), All Cargo Logistics and Kotak group were involved, RPSG Ventures Ltd, a company headquartered in Kolkata, sprung the biggest surprise. Their bid for Lucknow was astonishingly high — ₹7,090 crore ($940mn). RPSG Ventures owned the now defunct Pune franchise.

The CVC Capital Partners, headquartered in Luxembourg, was the other surprise. It outbid Adanis and will now own the Ahmedabad team. Their offer stood at ₹5,625 crore ($750 mn). The combined figure is ₹12,715 crore ($1.6bn). To put the values in perspective, when the IPL began in 2008, Mumbai Indians were the costliest franchise at $111.9 mn (₹840 crore at current dollar rate).

Most valued clubs (2021)

FC Barcelona: ($4.76 bn) **₹35,400 crore**

New York Nicks, NBA: ($5 bn) **₹37,541 crore**

Dallas Cowboys, NFL: ($6.5 bn) **₹48,805 crore**

Source: Forbes

The huge sums that were tabled — the lowest being the ₹4,023.99 crore by Glazers — is also a reflection of the brand's growing popularity in the country as well as abroad. From a commercial point of view, it sits along side Premier League, La Liga and National Football League, though in terms of money IPL has a lot of catching up to do.

Though 22 entities had picked the documents, only nine bidders were shortlisted after technical clearance in a meeting held in Dubai. It is understood the BCCI was expecting around ₹8,000 cr from the bids.

Like other major leagues, TV broadcast rights are the major contributor to the IPL's coffers. Currently, the BCCI gets around ₹58 crore per match from broadcast rights. Taking this as an indicator, the broadcast rights that is up for renewal is expected fetch around ₹36,000 crore for 2023-27 period. "The level of interest among the interested parties prove that IPL is among the most sought-after sporting leagues in the world. We had bids from different parts of the world and from parties with diverse portfolios wanting to make a foray into the world of sports," said IPL Governing Council chairman Brijesh Patel.

CVC CAPITAL PARTNERS

According to its website, it's a $125 bn (₹1 lakh crore) private equity and credit firm that manages funds on behalf of 300 investors from North America, Europe, Asia and Middle East. Recently, it acquired roughly 11 per cent of La Liga's TV rights (50 years) in exchange of €2.1bn.

GOLD CAP FOR SILVERSCREEN SUPERSTAR

Vice-President M Venkaiah Naidu presents the Dadasaheb Phalke Award to actor Rajinikanth during the 67th National Film Awards presentation ceremony at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi on Monday | SHEKHAR YADAV

Booster dose for health infra

The ₹64,000-crore PM Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission launched on Monday aims to strengthen the critical healthcare network right from the village to the national level in the next 4-5 years. A look

Through PM Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission, an entire ecosystem for services from treatment to critical research will be created in every corner of the country
Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

THE AMBITIOUS PROJECT HAS THREE PRONGS

1 DIAGNOSTICS, TREATMENT

17,788 rural health and wellness centres to come up in 10 high-focus states; 11,024 urban health and wellness centres will be established across India

WILL PROVIDE CONSULTATION, TESTS AND MEDICINES FOR FREE

Critical care services in districts with more than **5 lakh** population through exclusive critical care hospital blocks; rest to be covered through referral services

2 TESTING LABS

Full range of diagnostic services through integrated public health labs in **730 districts;** 3,000 blocks to get Block Public Health Units

FIVE Regional National Centres for Disease Control, 20 Metropolitan units, and **15 BSL labs** will further strengthen this network

3 R&D EXPANSION ON PANDEMICS

Existing 80 viral diagnostic and research labs to be strengthened

9 BIOSAFETY LEVEL III LABS TO BE OPERATIONALISED

4 new National Institutes of Virology and a National Institute for One Health to be established

COSTLY ERROR

Flight lands at wrong end of runway at B'gavi airport

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Belagavi

A major mishap was averted after a SpiceJet aircraft, with 30 passengers on board, landed at the wrong end of the runway at the Belagavi airport on Sunday. The pilots later flew the aircraft to Hyderabad after a 26-minute stopover.

Despite the mess-up, flight operations at the airport remained unaffected throughout the day. The Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has launched an inquiry to ascertain the cause for the technical glitch that made the pilots of the Hyderabad-Belagavi flight land on the wrong end of the runway.

DGCA Arun Kumar said the two pilots have been off-rostered and the investigation is on. "We will take further action based on the probe," he added.

SpiceJet stated that the ATC had cleared the aircraft to land on RWY26 at Belgaum, but it landed on RWY08. P7

Little kids return to school, but attendance remains low

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

THE reluctance of parents and children of classes 1-5 to attend schools offline was apparent with only half (49.49 per cent) of the permitted 50 per cent students coming to schools on Monday, the first day of reopening of physical classes.

D Shashi Kumar, General Secretary, Associated Managements of Primary and Secondary Schools in Karnataka (KAMS), attributed the low attendance to starting blues, lack of transport, and post-festive inertia.

Besides, the education department could gather attendance data from only 39.92 per cent of the 62,032 schools across the state. Department officials said a clearer picture will emerge when all schools submit their attendance details.

Considering it was the first day, education department officials expected primary school students to follow the same trend as noticed among students of classes 6-12, who too had recorded poor attendance when offline classes opened on October 1. But it improved steadily over subsequent days. For Classes 1-5, 100 per cent attendance will be allowed from the first week of November.

With the uncertainty prevailing over reopening of schools offline, many parents — especially in rural areas and a few in urban parts — had not admitted their kids. Besides, some had failed to pay admission fees for the year. On Monday, many were found making a beeline to schools' payment desks or settling the dues online and send their children back to school.

Many children from private, aided and unaided schools returning to their classes a year-and-a-half later were welcomed with 'aratis', chocolates, sweets and savouries. At some schools, teachers had dressed as cartoon characters.

CONTINUED ON: P2

A senior citizen guides a group of young children to their school, which opened after a gap of 18 months, in Koppal on Monday | PRAKASH KANDAKOOR

EXPRESS READ

Panel to decide water level at Mullaperiyar: SC

New Delhi: The supervisory committee should take a 'firm decision' on the maximum water level to be maintained in the Mullaperiyar dam, the Supreme Court said on Monday, when the issue was raised before it in view of the heavy rain in Kerala. The dam was built in 1895 on Periyar River in Idukki district, Kerala. P7

'No NEET-PG counselling till SC decides on quota'

New Delhi: The Centre assured the Supreme Court on Monday that the counselling process of NEET-PG will not commence till the top court decides the challenge to 27 per cent reservation for OBC and 10 per cent for EWS category in PG All India Quota seats from the current academic session. P9

NATIONWIDE	OCT 24	OCT 25
Fresh cases	15,906	14,306
Recoveries	16,479	18,762
Deaths	561	443

KARNATAKA	OCT 24	OCT 25
Fresh cases	388	290
Recoveries	586	408
Deaths	5	10

Health dept will chalk out plan to tackle water contamination

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

ELEVEN people have died after consuming contaminated water in North Karnataka over the last few weeks, and the state government is finding it challenging to provide clean drinking water in these villages. It has now directed the Health Department to come up with a comprehensive plan to take appropriate measures.

Seven people died at Makarabbi village in Vijayanagar district earlier this month and prior to that Kalaburagi reported two deaths. On Sunday, two more died in Vijayapura district. Chief Secretary P Ravi Kumar admitted that drinking water pipelines in many villages are old and some may even have leakages leading to contamination. It is a serious issue and the government will take action, he added.

"Also, villages do not have proper sewerage and solid waste management systems. I have directed the Health Department to come up with a comprehensive plan," he told The New Indian Express on Monday.

After the deaths at Makarabbi village, the government took action against a panchayat official and two engineers and also ordered senior IAS officer Munish Moudgil to prepare a report on reasons for the contamination and those responsible for it. Moudgil presented the report after visiting the village. Based on the findings of the report, the government will soon take action, Ravi Kumar said.

Sources said negligence of officials at the local level was one of the reasons for the contamination and situation getting aggravated. Sewage got mixed with drinking water during the water supply work, but authorities failed to act in time after one person died due to contaminated drinking water.

An expert said better coordination at the village level is key to preventing water contamination. "Officials concerned at the field level should be kept informed about water supply works, so that they can monitor water quality. In some villages, water pipelines are in the middle of the drains that were built later. A small leakage in the pipeline will lead to contamination. Sensitising officials at the village level and timely cleaning of overhead tanks should be made mandatory at all villages," he added.

Mystery of missing labourers in undivided Ballari district

KIRAN BALANNANAVAR @Ballari

A 24-year-old youth from Bidar, **Shanta Kumar G**, working as a labourer at a steel plant in Sandur in Ballari district has gone missing for the last one week. Adding to their distress, Kumar's parents are finding it difficult to file a missing person complaint with the police.

It is not just Kumar, over the last one year, eight complaints of labourers missing have been filed at various police stations in undivided Ballari district. The count is 30 for the last three years.

Since the area houses several heavy industries, particularly from the mining and steel sectors, labourers from different parts of the country come here seeking jobs. Data shows that a majority of the missing labourers are from other states, while many of them have also died due to accidents at the workplace.

Gundappa Gunvamshi, Kumar's father, told The New Indian Express that their elder son, who is the sole breadwinner of the family, came to Ballari to work at the steel plant. On October 15, Kumar's friends informed the family that he was not to be found. "It is hard to imagine life without him," he added, requesting the police to trace him.

A member of the labourers' union said that as there are a lot of job opportunities in Ballari and Vijayanagara districts, which are mining and steel hubs, a large number of workers come from Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana and other states, apart from Karnataka. But most of these industries do not take safety precautions, causing injuries and deaths of labourers, he alleged. "Instead of acting after the accidents, authorities from plants should take precautions to prevent such incidents," he said.

CONTINUED ON: P7